



Ightham Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th September 2024

Issue 1 2024-2025

Term Dates for 2024-25

Term 1 – Wednesday 4th September to Friday 25th October

Term 2 – Tuesday 5th November to Thursday 19th December

Term 3 – Monday 6th January to Friday 14th February

Term 4 – Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Term 5 – Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May

Term 6 – Tuesday 3rd June to Tuesday 22nd July

Staff Development Days for 2024-25

Monday 4th November 2024

Friday 20th December 2024

Monday 2nd June 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

Children have had a productive first full week back for this academic year and classes are engaged with their topics and class books. The children are getting used to their routines and have enjoyed getting to know their new teachers. Everyone is showing a great attitude to their work and are applying themselves brilliantly.

I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting classes this week. Children in years 1-6 have started the new reading and writing programme 'CUSP' and have been heard talking enthusiastically about their new class books. In this newsletter, I have included the Reading Spine for our school so you can see the exciting texts that the children will be reading this year.

Our newest children in Reception have settled in exceptionally well – it's like you've always been here! So much learning has been taking place in Acorn class. I especially like your self portraits which are proudly on display in the classroom. We all look forward to seeing more of your learning and creativity next week.

I have been asked by parents to mention the parking at the bottom of the recreation ground – please could I ask that you not leave big gaps between the cars. This will ensure that more cars can get into the car park and parents can drop their children off safely. Our lower gate is the main entrance so please bear this in mind when parking.

The PSA met on Tuesday of this week and we have put in the dates for a film night (11th October) an own clothes day (18th October) and a cake sale (25th October). Watch this space for more information about these events and how to contribute.

Key Dates

Thursday 3rd October

KS2 Harvest Festival at St. Peter's Church

Friday 4th October

KS1 Harvest Festival in the School Hall

Friday 11th October

PSA Film Night

Friday 18th October

PSA Own Clothes Day

Monday 21st October

Parent Consultations

Wednesday 23rd October

Parent Consultations

Friday 25th October

PSA Cake Sale



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Attendance

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Pine – 98.61%

Chestnut – 98.33%

Willow – 97.78%

Elm – 98.06%

Beech – 98.89%

Oak – 99.17%

Lateness

The number of “lates” recorded this week were as follows:

Pine – 1

Chestnut – 1

Willow – 0

Elm – 0

Beech – 0

Oak – 2



In the Summer holidays, there was an update by the DFE regarding Penalty Notices and authorising absence. The document in its entirety can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf

In this document it makes it very clear that term time absence can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and that term time holidays are not considered to be an exceptional circumstance. Headteachers are therefore unable to authorise term time holidays.

The new guidance then instructs schools that “Please be aware that any 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period will then be considered for a Penalty Notice as well as 5 consecutive days of unauthorised term time absence.”

We are duty bound to follow these new rules as are all schools in England and Wales. Attendance and how it is dealt with form part of the Ofsted inspection framework and we are held accountable for it.

We do not seek to issue fines and we certainly don’t want to see our families reach the point of facing prosecution. We ask that you please work with us and do not book holidays during term time.

Lastly, congratulations to our year 6 children who completed the Kent Tests at school yesterday. You all conducted yourself so well. I hope that your hard work and preparation pays off and know that whatever the outcome, we are proud of you.

Have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Miss K Snow
Interim Head of School

Roles and Responsibilities

Congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their peers to take on the following responsibilities:

Science Ambassadors:

Oak Class = Callum & Eleri

Beech Class = Oliver & Jeannie

Elm Class = Max & Malachy

Willow Class = Annabelle & Cordelia

Chestnut Class = Bertie & Daisy

Pine Class = Charlie & Carina

School Councillors:

Oak Class = Arty & Zac

Beech Class = Arthur & Flo

Elm Class = Zac & Isobelle

Willow Class = Albert & Millie

Chestnut Class = Harry & Eliza



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House Captains:

Mote: Fearne & Harry

Oldbury: Lottie & Joshua C

Knole: Jackson & Georgina

Chartwell: Molly & Olivia



Eco Councillors:

Oak Class = Henry & Lochlan

Beech Class = Poppy M & Story

Elm Class = Rufus & Theo GP

Willow Class = Elara & Lily

Chestnut Class = Aelwen & Miles

Pine Class = Felix & Jessica



School Ambassadors (Autumn Term): Izzy T & Archie K

Well done to all these children as well as those that put themselves forward.

Ightham Values

Caring

Respect

Responsibility

Tolerance

Aspiration

Honesty

Ightham Vision

Pupils should leave Ightham School with their understanding deepened, their minds enriched, and their hearts inspired, so that they love learning and embrace the challenges of the future.

Gold Cup, Courtesy Cup and Head Teacher Certificates

The Gold Cup was awarded to: Sofia in Year 4

Head Teacher certificates were awarded to:

Year 1 – Arthur H, Henry and Heidi

Year 2 – Ezra and Joshua

Year 3 – Millie and Cordelia

Year 4 – Robyn and Alex

Year 5 – Jeannie and Kaiden

Year 6 – Finley and Zac

Congratulations to all!



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